**Amendments to the Claims**:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling a braking force of a vehicle, the device comprising:

a braking force boosting control portion that increases the braking force in response to a detection of a possibility of a collision with an obstacle in a driving course of the vehicle; and

a boost-reducing control portion that controls the boosting control portion so as to reduce the braking force when a steering operation is executed by a driver of the vehicle as compared to a braking force to be generated when no steering operation is executed, thereby reducing the braking force and allowing the driver to avoid a collision through the steering operation executed by the driver, wherein the boost-reducing control portion controls a reduction in the braking force based upon a lateral force on a steered wheel estimated from the steering operation by the driver and a motional condition of the vehicle.

2. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling a braking force of a vehicle, the device comprising:

a braking force boosting control portion that increases the braking force in response to a detection of a possibility of a collision with an obstacle in a driving course of the vehicle; and

a boost-reducing control portion that controls the boosting control portion so as to reduce the braking force based on a lateral force on a wheel of the vehicle, when it is judged that the collision is avoidable by a steering operation of a driver of the vehicle as compared to a braking force to be generated when it is judged that the collision is inevitable by the steering operation.

3. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 2, wherein the boost-reducing control portion further comprises a boost-restricting control portion that restricts the braking force to be generated when it is judged that the collision is avoidable by the steering operation of the driver of the vehicle, and the boost-reducing control portion inhibits the boost-restricting control portion from restricting the braking force when it is judged that the collision is inevitable by the steering operation.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~claim 4~~claim 1, wherein the boost-reducing control portion increases the reduction in the braking force when the estimated lateral force on the steered wheel is high as compared to the reduction in the braking force to be set when the estimated lateral force on the steered wheel is low.

6. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the boost-reducing control portion controls the boosting control portion so that the braking force on a steered wheel is smaller than that on a non-steered wheel.

7. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling a braking force of a vehicle, the device comprising:

a braking force boosting control portion that increases the braking force in response to a detection of a first possibility of a collision with an obstacle in a driving course of the vehicle; and

a boost-reducing control portion that controls the boosting control portion so as to reduce the braking force when a steering operation is executed by a driver of the vehicle as compared to a braking force to be generated when no steering operation is executed as started from the detection of the first possibility until a second possibility ~~more imminent than the first possibility of the collision with the obstacle~~ that the collision with the obstacle is inevitable solely by either of a steering operation and a braking operation by the driver is detected, the boost-reducing control portion canceling the reduction of the braking force when the second possibility is detected.

8. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling a braking force of a vehicle, the device comprising:

a braking force boosting control portion that increases the braking force in response to a detection of a possibility of a collision with an obstacle in a driving course of the vehicle; and

a boost-reducing control portion that controls the boosting control portion so as to reduce the braking force when it is judged that the collision is avoidable by either of a steering operation and a braking operation of a driver of the vehicle as compared to a braking force to be generated when it is judged that the collision is inevitable by the steering operation but to cancel the reduction of the braking force when it is judged thereafter that the collision is inevitable by either of the steering operation and the braking operation.